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OPENINGS OF THE WOMB OF THE MORNING:

To all the *Princes of Germany*, and *People* who professe the Name of *Jesus Christ* in those *Dominions*, This is sent as a Free Gift in true Love unto those Nations, wherein the state of the True Church is discovered with her Foundation, and *Mystery Babylon* and her Foundation, that all may try themselves upon what Foundation they are, and whether they belong to that City which is to be made desolate, or to the *Lambs Wife* which shall be married unto him for ever in everlasting righteousness.

And the way and the entrance into the true worship in which God is well pleased discovered unto them who are weary, that they may come to rest, and to know that wherein peace and felicity consisteth.

By a Servant of the Lord who hath viewed your State, who hath reached forth his hand of love unto you, that you may come out of the night of Darkness, and behold the Lord in his marvellous Light which is arisen.

FRANCIS HOWGILL

LONDON,

Printed for *Thomas Simmons*, at the sign of the Bull and Mouth near

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To all the Princes of Germany, who profess the Name of Christ Jesus, and unto all the people under those Dominions, who are called Christians, this is sent as a gift of free love, from a Servant of the Lord, who hath viewed your State, in that which comprehendeth all time, and all things therein, that you may consider your present State, and seek after the Lord, who is revealing his Power and Glory in the Earth; and that you may wait upon him to be made partakers of that wherein everlasting happiness consisteth, and that you might all be awakened, and have your ears open to hear that which the Lord will shortly bring to pass.

THe Mighty day of the Lord is approaching, wherein the secrets of all mens hearts shall be manifested, even from Him that sits upon the Throne, to him that is the meanest servant, and every bond-man, and every free-man, the circumcised, & uncircumcised, the professor and the prophane, their works shall all be discovered, and all their deeds shall be brought to light, and everyone shall be judged, not according to what he hath seemed to profess, but what he is in reality and in truth, so shall he be reckoned & accounted of by the Lord, for every mans works shall be tryed of what sort they are, and the reward shall be according to every mans works, in truth and in righteousness, not according as fallen man judgeth, nor according as he calls right, but according to the righteous judgement of the everlasting God, in whom Truth, Life, and Immortality resides for ever.

Now when this day approacheth, which is near at hand, when the thoughts of all hearts shall be revealed, then many who have ruled, shall see they have not ruled in the Authority and Power of God, and therefore must receive a recompence and give an account of their Stewardship unto the Lord, and them that have served and obeyed, shall see that their obedience hath been more for fear of wrath and to please men, then to serve and please the Living God, whose Throne is established in the Heavens, whose Kingdome is over

all; how be it man whose eyes are blind, the Sons of *Adam* in transgression, in the fallen state knows not the Kingdome, nor his Throne further then by report and hear-say and traditions and customes, though by him *Kings Rule*, and *Princes decrees Justice*, yet few do know him who is the King of Kings, & Lord of Lords, the God of the whole Earth, neither do they know that in themselves, in which justice is decreed, who are rather continuing ruling in an usurped Estate, then ruling in the Power of the Lord, which would be a terrour to evil doers; but fallen man calls well doing, *evil*, and *evil*, good, and so judges & rules according to that in his own eyes, so punishes and afflicts them who do that which is evil as it appeareth in his eyes, though it be good in the eyes of the Lord.

And upon this account the righteous hath suffered, and such as are dear unto the Lord, have been made a prey of through many Generations, from *Cain* downward who slew his Brother; and who are in the first birth born of the *flesh* judges that evil which is born of the *Spirit*, and their wayes evil who walk in the *Spirit*, and their worship evil, who worship in the *Spirit*; and thus many Kings of *Judah* and *Israel* made the righteous Seed to suffer, when they were revolted from the Lord, then they set up their own Imaginations, decrees and Laws to be observed, who laid the commandments of the Lord wast, and made havock of them that kept them, and caused such to suffer as evil doers, and as traytors, as factious and rebellious in the sight of all the people, As *Feroboham*, *Ahab*, *Ahasia*, *Rehabobam* and divers others; and the Princes and Dukes of *Edom* made war against *Jacob* and his Seed unto which the promise was, and the blessing was, and so accounted them vile that were pretious in the sight of the Lord, and reckoned them righteous that were vile in the eyes of the Lord.

And since the Kingdome of Heaven hath been preached, and Christianity the name thereof hath been in reputation, and the Gospel hath been published abroad, and the uncircumcised have got the *sound*, and the unregenerate hath got the *same*, and the unconverted have got the name of Christians, and yet alwaies turn against them that were in the nature of Christ, these have made the righteous to suffer, and killed

killed the Children of the freewoman, the true Church, the Lambs wife.

And know ye this, that since Christ hath been preached, and since the true Church have been brought forth, there hath been a great falling away by many from the faith which was once deliverd to the Saints, by which faith they had victory over the world, and conquered spiritual enemies, and overcome the grave, and witnessed victory over it; Now the words of them which had this faith is retained, and the form and the outside practices was held for a while, but the Power was denyed; And Paul saw many such getting up to a head, and growing into a body in his time, who had the form but denyed the Power, who subverted whole houses, who were covetous and beady and high minded then, and lovers of pleasures more then lovers of God; and these kind of false Apostles and Satans Messengers, and false Prophets that Christ said should come, Mat. 24. And John saw already come in that age, and Peter, Jude and divers others wrot of, and yet these were preachers of the Name of Christ, and got the form of words, and the name of Gospel, and yet denyed the Lord that bought them and redeemed them, as in 2 Peter 2. 1. to wit, him in whom was life, and the life was the Light of men; Thus they denied the true Light that lighteneth every man that cometh into the world, and yet would be preaching up the Name of Christ and Jesus in words, but denied the life, which is a mystery, and many followed their pernicious waies, by whom the truth was evil spoken of, these were enemies to the Cross of Christ, which mortifies the deeds of the flesh, and so lived in the flesh, and yet had the good words, the sheeps cloathing, the outside, but were erred and ravened from the Spirit, greedy after filthy Lucre, greedy after Covetousness and worldly honors, greedy after pleasures; and these false Teachers wept out into the World from the Light, and from the Life and fellowship of the Gospel, which is a mystery, and from the Saints Communion, and from the Apostles fellowship, and from the true Church in God the Ground and Pillar of Truth, and then withstood the Apostles, and spoke all manner of evil of them, and falsely accused them, to be in bondage; And these separated themselves, and crept into houses, and lead many away.

away Captive, and captivated their understanding, Captivated the minds of those that were laden with sin and divers lusts, *who were ever learning, but never came to the knowledge of the Truth,* in which the deservng is.

And these became great Teachers, and the whole world went after them, and proselyted many into their false faith which was *fained*, and into that hope which was but as a spiders web, and into a profession of Christianity without the life of Christ, and those went into the world, and those that were in the perishing state wondered after them and admired them, and set them up, who admired them because of *advantage*, and received them, and so held up one another in deceit, and so grew into a body, and got the name of a Church, though they were adulterated from the true faith, and run away from Christ the true husband after other lovers, and yet because the Name of Christ and Christianity had a good sound, therefore they retained the Name for a cloak that they might not be discovered; And so many children and false Christians which were not begotten and born again of the *Light immortall*, and of the *Immortal word of life* were brought forth, and these were adulterated children, and children of Fornication, and children of falsehood who would lie as the Prophet said, *as the Mother was, so was the Daughter, and so are the children.*

And here did the false Church and false Members arise, and false Christians and false Children grew numerous, in so much that they spred themselves over Nations, Kindreds, Tongues, Languages, and People, and so came to be a Universal visible Church, though indeed a deceitful and abominable harlot, who spread her feet unto every one that passed by, as it is easie to make appear; neither did she retain long the practice and form of the true Apostles, but joynd themselves to the heathen, and took in their practice, and mixed themselves with the Jewish worship, and took in their Types, Figures, Shadows, Dayes, Fasts, and Feasts, and mixed all these things together, and at last called those inventions, the *Apostolick institutions*, and ordinances of the true Church, and so came the Nations to be cheated; then she reached forth her golden Cup of fornication, her fair out-

out-side to the Nations, Kindreds, Tongues and People, and they were made drunk, and there they stumbled, reeled and staggered till at last they became all like a Sea, like waters which swell and rore and foam, and stand at no stay, take notice of this, here was the false Churches foundation, laid in the waters, upon this was the seat of the Mother of harlots, which John saw fourteen hundred years ago, but the foundation of the true Church, which was before this, was planted in Christ in the Apostles dayes, and was builded upon the true light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world, upon Christ the Power of God, the Corner stone, the Rock of ages, and the members of her body which were elect and precious, a few at Corinth, at Jerusalem, at Asia, at Antioch, at Colos, Ephesus and other places, who believed and were changed into their hearts by the word of God, which the Ministers of Christ preached, which was in their hearts, and them who came to be established in the truth, in Meekness, Patience, long suffering, who walked together in love (to wit) in the love of God, which was shed abroad in their hearts, became a habitation for God through the Spirit, and Christ was the head of this body, and ruled over it, and in it, and by him were they led, and were subject to him who was their husband and Shephard, Who preserved them and ordered and provided for them, Who gave unto them the Bread and Water of life, and reached unto them the Cup of Salvation and blessing, whereby they came to be nourished and grew in wisdom and knowledge, obedience and Subjection, and in the power, and in the Dominion, so were more then Conquerors, thorow him that was their Lawgiver, King, Judge and Saviour, and these as I have said came to know the truth, Christ in their hearts ruling, and this was the seat of the true Church.

And herein is the true Church of God and her seat and members manifested, and the false Church her seat and members manifested, the one upon the Rock, the other upon the Sand, the one in the life, the other on the Words without life, the seat of the one amongst those that were established in the truth, who bore the Image of Christ, and did walk in love, and the seat of the other was in the waters, and upon the waters,

waters, and upon unstable minds, and upon them that were in *Cains* way, and the seat of the one upon them and among them who had received *freely of the Lord*, and Ministred freely out unto others of that which they had received, but the seat of the other upon them and among them that went in *Balaams* way, who were greedy of filthy Lucre, and followed after *gifts and rewards*; the seat of the one upon and among them who had submitted unto the *teachings of Gods holy Spirit in them*, the seat of the other upon them and among them who had *erred from the Spirit*, and quenched it, and cried *Revelation was ceased*, who went in *Corahs* way, in the gainsaying and relisting of the Holy Ghost; the one upon them that were in the *power of God*, the other upon them who had the *form but denied the power*; the one among them who were the *servants of Righteousness*, the other amongst them whose throats were as an open *Sepulchre*, whose feet was swift to shed blood, and eyes full of adultery, who could not cease from sin; the one among them who took up the *daily Crosse of Christ*, and denied themselves, and the other among them, who followed their own waies, and *not the Crosse of Christ*, but deniers of it, the one amongst them who were crucified to the flesh and the deeds thereof, the other among them that were alive in the flesh, and following the *affections and lusts thereof*.

So much more I might say according to the wisdom given of the Lord, but by what hath been said herein you may see the differences between the *true Church of God*, and the *Mother of harlots*, betwixt *Jerusalem* which is above, a *mystery*, and the *mystery of Babylon*, and betwixt the *bride the Lambs wife*, and the *harlot that hath run from her Husband*, and the differences of the members of each body, and the differences between each seat made manifest by their effect and fruits which is brought forth by each sort; so read your selves, whether you are in the *Apostacy* or out of the *Apostacy*, whether of the members of *Christ* and of his body, or of *Antichrist*, and so members of the *Harlot* and of her body; to the measure of Gods Spirit in all your consciences, as you take heed to it, will give you a true understanding.

And so when these *Waters, Nations, Tongues, Kindreds and Peoples* came to be drunken with the cup of *Fornication*,
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not only the common sort of people, but also the *Kings*, the *Captains* and *Nobles* were poluted amongst all these professing Christians who had the name of being Christians, but (are not) Arose the great *Scarlet coloured beast*, who had the names of blasphemy written in his forehead, with seven heads, and ten horns, Perfect cruelty and great strength, who compelled all to worship him; and here was the beginning of earthly powers, who came to meddle and compel in spiritual matters, and the Kings of the Earth gave their aid, force and strength to the beast, who compelled all both great and small, whose names were not written in the *Lambs book of life*, to worship him, and he killed the Saints and persecuted them which kept the *Testimony of Jesus and the word of God*, and the false Church which had laid her Foundation and sate as a *Queen*, got upon the beast, and travelled in the greatness of his strength, and made war against the *free-woman the Lambs Wife*, and made her fly into the wilderness, for two times and a half; and all this was since the Apostles dayes, that so now they that boast of *visibility and universality* alwaies since the Apostles dayes, by this Argument they overthrow themselves; for that which hath alwaies been so visible, in power, force and strength, and so universaly seen and spread over all Nations, Kindreds, Tongues and People, cannot be the Church of Christ, for he hath been in the wilderness, and Christ the head of his Church, the body, compelleth none by carnal weapons to worship the Lord, but he that takes hold of the Sword shall perish by the Sword; and he said again, love your enemies, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them that persecute you, and this is he who is the higher power, unto whom all power is given both in Heaven and Earth, and unto him the spouse is subject, and the body is subject, and they fear him and honour his holy Name, for he is worthy to be praised, and to receive all Honour, Glory and Strength for ever.

But the beast compelleth all, who rose up out of the waters and became great and cruel, which had a mouth speaking great things and blasphemy, and he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God to blaspheme his Name, and them that dwell in Heaven, and he made war with the Saints, and overcame them, read the book of the Revelations, and this beast had power over all

Kindreds, Tongues and Nations and Kingdoms, (which is the seat of the false Church) which devoured and killed the Saints, who have been cryed up for the higher, and highest power, and all who dwelt upon the Earth whose names were not written in the Book of life, cryed out who is able to make war with the beast, and whosoever did not receive the mark of the beast, rich or poor, high or low, bond or free, might not buy nor sell, but were killed and warred against, and herein is the power of God made manifest, and the power of Antichrist, the followers of the Lamb, and the followers of the beast, the worship of the Lamb, and the worship of the beast, the war with the Lamb and his followers, and the war with the Beast and his followers, and the Lamb maketh war with the Sword of his mouth, which is the Sword of the spirit and word of God, and so doth all his followers, who overcome spiritual wickedness in high places, and conquers the unclean spirit, & subdues the Kingdom of the Devil and powers of darkness, and yet hurts not the Creature, for Christ came not to destroy mens lives, but to save them; and herein again is the beast and Dragon and their worship and followers made manifest to be quite different unto the former, for he compells to his worship, by his cruel laws, imprisonment, and lingering torments, and by his carnal swords and weapons which never can subdue spiritual enemies, and he kills men and strikes at the Creature, and so destroyes the Saints bodies which are Gods Tabernacles and Temple, and Temples of the holy Ghost, this never reacheth to the pulling down of deceit in any, wherein lieth the true power, but the Lamb doth not so, but slayes the enmity, and saves the Creature.

And we never read that Christ ever gave command to his Disciples, neither did his Disciples give any such Commandment unto the Churches which were planted, that they should force any to their worship, either believers or unbelievers, but alwayes taught the contrary, that as every one had received the gift of God (Christ) so let them walk, & as every one believed in his own heart and was perswaded in his own mind by the spirit of the Lord, was to walk accordingly, did obey and observe or else he sinned; for the true Church of God and Ministers of Christ took no pleasure to make men sinners,

ners, for whatsoever is not of Faith is sin.

But Oh how many have the false Church, and beast, and the Kings and Princes of the Earth forced to receive these things, as institutions and ordinances of God, and to observe many things which hath been put upon people as Divine worship, or as some heavenly observations, when alas many did not believe with their hearts, neither were perswaded (thereto) by the spirit of God in their own minds and consciences, and yet through force, and compelling prisoning and cruel tortering many have yielded and condescended to their worship, and so have been made to sin against the Lord and their own Souls; and thus in stead of making Christians indeed, thousands of Hypocrites hath been profelyted this way, and many others through weakness, rather then to suffer, have sinned against their weak consciences, by this forcing way, or compelling way; The City of Babylon hath been reared up by this means, and the false Church hath gotten a great corrupt body, and glories in her seat, and sitteth as a *Queen* over Nations, Kindreds, Tongues and People, having perswaded the Kings and Nobles of the Earth that they ought to defend this *holy Church*, and to keep her Ordinances unviolated, or else they should be in danger of her curse, and of her *Excommunication*; and thus the Devil himself hath armed himself every way, and Antichrist hath fenced about his Throne, as to the gaining of the powers of the Earth on his side, and for fear of being discovered he hath taken up the out-side profession of Christianity, yet the *Wolfs nature* is brought forth and is tryed, which worries and kills the Sheep; and to speak plainly and truly, since the *Power of God*, hath been lost and disregarded, which mortifies the deeds of the flesh in men, and the *form of words* retained, and the out-side observances taken up by the false Church, she hath gotten more members by the Kings of the Earth who have drunk of her Cup, and are baptized into her spirit by their cruel forcing and owning all to a conformity to their *holy Church*, as she hath called her self, then by any sound Doctrine or holy example or good practices that she hath shewed forth to the Nations.

And Oh how hath the Kings of the Earth, and the Princes

thereof been made slaves and drudges to this harlot to make Lawes for her, and to re-inforce them upon people, to the destroying of many bodies and soules, to patronize and hold up their sorceries, and to keep up her inchantments in reputation among the people, and in so doing the false Church hath so flattered and called their Princes who had drunk of her cup, *defenders of the faith*, and *propagators of the Gospel*, but if any did fail of observing her invented Institutions, then what dreadful excommunications, and woes and curses hath been threatned against them, and how many Princes have been deposed of their Crowns as Hereticks, and rebellious hath been raised against such to overthrow them and their people, and therein you have had sufficient proof many of you Princes of Germany.

These things I write unto you, desiring all your good in that which pertains to this life, and of that which is to come, & that you might truly see your selves whether you are not drinking of this cup of Fornication, yea or nay, or whether you are not yet giving your power to the beast, yea or nay; is there not a form of worship without the life and power? then that is but the *whores cup*, is there a seeming shew of holiness amongst you, and do you not enjoy the life, and sum and substance of all shadows? Then that is but the *whores cup*, the out-side fairly garnished, but rottenness is at the heart; do you compel to worship? then that is the *beasts power*, that is not *Christs power*, nor of the *higher power*, you must deny that; the true state and power that any Prince hath allowed him from God, in which he may expect a blessing upon himself and people, is in that he ruleth well in things appertaining unto men, and in things civil which pertaineth unto this life, and unto the Kingdomes of men upon Earth, and to be for the punishing of evil doers, as of these Murderous man-slayers, man-stealers, Drunkards, Whoremongers, Adulterers, Cozeners, Cheaters, Defrauders, and violent doers, and the sword is to be turned against all these things, and to keep down such things in every Nation and Government, and that every punishment be in equalitie suitable to the crime and fault, not exceeding it; And thus Princes and Rulers who so ruleth, ruleth for God, and this is an Ordinance of God; but *Mystery Babylon* the false Church is far from these things,

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things, who have perswaded Rulers, Princes, and Nobles, that they must rule as Magistrates in the Church of God, and in Christs Government, in things appertaining to the Conscience, hath taught them to usurp Authority in those things; but God hath anointed Christ to be Lord and King, and hath given him to be the head of the body, which is his Church, and to rule in the hearts and Consciences of the sons of men, and he is the alone Lord and King there, and no outward King, nor Prince, nor Governour upon the face of the earth hath any thing to do there.

Obj. But some may say ought not they who denied Christs commands be compelled to worship and obey according as he taught?

Ans. As Salvation belongs to him alone, so vengeance belongs to him also, and as he communicates power to them which believe and obey the Gospel, so also by the breath of his mouth will he slay the wicked, and vengeance is his and he will repay it, and all they who will not have him to rule in their hearts, and unto the disobedient it shall be said, and shall be done, *they shall be brought before him and slain*, and that by which he slayes the disobedient, is by the breath of his mouth, which is sharper then any two edged sword, which reacheth to that which the outward sword and forcing power cannot reach unto.

Obj. But farther it may be objected, *Were not the Kings of Israel and Judah to compel men to keep the Commandements and Statutes of the true God, and to restrain them from worshipping of false gods, and to stone to death false Prophets and Blasphemers, and may not the Kings and Princes of the earth do the same now?*

Ans. To which I answer, it is true, the Kings of Israel and Judah were to do so, under the first Covenant (which made nothing perfect) who did not see to the end of things that were to be abolished; and as the first Priest-hood, and Sacrifices, and Offerings, were figures and shadows of the good things to come, even of the everlasting Sacrifice, and of the everlasting Offering; so the Kings of Israel and their Governments were types, and figures, and shadows of the King of Kings, and the King of Saints, and their Government a shadow of the Government which was to be without end, and their compelling outward, and punishing outward, of Christ subduing

subduing all his enemies, and killing blasphemers, and stoning of them, and slaying of them with his spiritual sword, that would not have him to rule over them; but now the King of Righteousnesse being come, his Law is *inward*, his Kingdom is *Spiritual*, his Service is *Spiritual*, his Worship is *Spiritual*, his Weapons *Spiritual* with which he slayes his enemies, and the glory which the Father hath given to him he will not give to another, and herein the Kingdom, the Power, the Authority, and the Weapons are of a more excellent nature then the others were, and his Sovereignty and greatness excelleth the other, and this is Truth as it is in *Jesus*; and so all Kings and Princes now are in another state, then the Kings of Israel and Judah were, for the substance is come, and the King of eternal glory, the true light that lighteth every man that cometh into the world hath all power committed to him; so for any now to intrude or take upon them to do that which the Father hath committed unto him, is absolute *usurpation*; and though the false Church, and the Merchants thereof, and many which would be counted *Rabbies* in it, have spurred on, and pressed on Princes to their hurt, as to *usurp Authority over mens Consciences in faith and doctrine*, this will be their reward certainly from the hand of the Lord at the last, *who hath required this at your hands?* For Paul an Apostle of Jesus Christ, whose Power and Authority was great, as to the things of God, went far beyond any *temporal Prince*, who had begotten many to the faith, who said, that he and some others were not *Lords over their faith*, nor over mens *Consciences*, but as it is said left every man to be fully persuaded in his own mind, by Gods Spirit him which he had testified of, which he said God had given a measure of to profit withall, and *none knows the things of God but by the Spirit of God*, then good reason it is, that all should be left to that which is the absolute and onely means by which God, and the things of God, and worship of God comes to be known. What will the Church of Rome say to this, or the Pope say unto this, who sayes that he is *Peters* successor? Is not things imposed upon people as to be believed, which are contrary to the Scriptures, and for which there is no Scripture for, nor example, but onely because *Peters* successor hath said so, and the Church

Church said so? and if another believe not so, he is then counted a Heretick if he doth not believe it, and hath been proceeded against as a Heretick; instance that one thing about *Bread and Wine*, which is called a *Sacrament*, which the Church of Rome hath held for Doctrine this many hundred years, (to wit) *that after the words of consecration by a Priest, the natural bread and wine become substantially the real body and blood of Christ*, which doctrine is so inconsistent with the faith of Gods elect, and so contrary to the Scriptures and also to sound reason, that none but they who are wilfully ignorant can believe; and yet because many could not believe this doctrine of Transubstantiation, many have been wracked, tortured, burned, and put to cruel deaths, and is not this to be Lords over mens faith, and to Lord it over mens Consciences, and so intrudes and rules in mens hearts, and regulates mens judgements, which onely belongs to God, the Judge of Heaven and Earth? And therefore all Princes, Governours, and Rulers, learn wisdom and understanding to rule with the wisdom of God which comes from above, and cumber not your selves with that which God expects not from you, neither doth he require of you to be Lords over his heritage; neither do you meddle nor intrude into those things which he would not have you to meddle withal, neither let any perswade you, under any colour to drive on their own deceit, promising to you in so doing, therein you do God good service; or presse you on to persecute any about Spiritual matters.

Now I say unto you, in the name, and power, and authority of Gods spirit, They that compelleth to any worship, or forceth to any worshipping, whether true or false, or punisheth and putteth to death any for not worshipping truly, or for worshipping falsely, he is to this day *under the Antichristian reign*, who hath exalted himself, and sets himself in the *Temple of God*, and sits as Judge thereof, that which belongs onely to the Lords Christ and so intrenches upon the *overraignty* which belongs to Christ, the King of righteousness, and such will do violence to the subjects of Christs Kingdom.

Therefore all Kings, Princes, and Potentates of the earth, who professeth the Name of Christ Jesus, cast off those heavy
 yokes,

yoaks, which the false Church and Harlot have perswaded you to put your necks in, onely to raise her City, and to put off her merchandize, and to make the Church of the *free woman* the Church of Christ suffer; And this above all things hath brought great detriment and hurt unto you Princes and people of *Germany*, for they have been led by a blind zeal, to do that which they have been perswaded unto by her which hath sate as a *Queen*, and as the *Lady* of Kingdoms, and a *Mistresse* over Gods household, to do that which hath provoked the Lord against them, whereby their dominions have been rent from them, and many of the dear Lambs have causelessly suffered, and many of their subjects have been evilly intreated, and some have been put to death, so thereby have lost the hearts of the people by such actings, onely to satisfie the blood-thirsty mind of her that hath drunk the blood of the *Saints*.

Therefore ye Kings and Princes of the Earth, and Emperours, and all people who have been beguiled, through the falshood and sorceries of this false Church, who have drank of her cup of fornication, and have given your strength and power to the beast, and so have wrought their works and not the Lords, shake off the yoke from off your necks, and draw back your authority and power that you have given to the beast, who hath killed and compelled all to worship him, and all people to buy the Whores sorceries; shake off her enchantments and witchcrafts, and intanglements, and stand upon your own legs, and come to *wait* upon the Lord, and upon the *Light* of the Lord, which you are *lightned withall*, that so you may answer Gods end and rule for the Lord, and keep peace among all people under your Dominions, and then it will be easier for you to do that, when you leave all mens Consciences free to the Lord, and every man to that of God in him, according to which every man must be judged, and then people will be more ready to obey your just commands, which are for the peace and prosperity, which are for the welfare of a Nation and Country, for since the Apostles dayes the apostacy hath come and covered them, and many people have been forced into a worship, and unto services, and unto a Religion by outward compulsory Laws, and

and by the outward sword, and great penalties and imprisonments, if not subject to their Commands, and all this hath come up since the Apostles, and spread it self over Kingdoms, Tongues and Nations, in the *midnight* of darknesse have many Countries been vassaled; and this I testifie unto you all, that this is no true *Christian Religion*, nor in Christs way; search diligently and read through the writings of the Apostles and Saints in the primitive time, and see if ever the true Church of Christ, or the Ministers thereof, Christ or his Apostles gave any such Commandement, or did ever lay any such injunction upon them that believed, Rulers, or Governours, or others, as to force or compel them to believe their worship, or forced, killed, or banished them that opposed, but unto the contrary they exhorted all, and commended every one to that in *their own Consciences* in the sight of God, and so left them unto that which they knew would inform their understandings, and perswade their minds, and when they were informed and perswaded of the Truth of what was declared, then they pressed obedience, not by any force or Awe, but they knew that they which would not be obedient unto that of God manifested in them, they should be judged of the Lord and never have peace; and this brought down the disobedient and rebellious Spirit, and the gain-saying Spirit, and yet saved the Creature alive, and herein were the Ministers of the *second Covenant* more excellent then the first.

Therefore awake ye Princes of *Germany* out of the Spirit of slumber, and shake your selves out of your deep sleep which hath been upon you, and wait upon the *Light* of the Lord in all your Consciences, that you may come to see the *day of the Lord God*, which is now a dawning, and dawned, that so you may distinguish between the precious and the vile, and also of every work, and action, and worship, you may truly discern of what sort and kind they are of, for he that doth not witnesse the quickning Spirit which enlivens the mind unto God, and deads it unto sin, his works, actions, and worship is but of a bad sort, these are the works that must be *burnt with fire*, and that is the worship which God is not pleased with, which is performed from the earthly

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corrupt part in man. by tradition, all this kind of profession is Gods controversie against; and this kind of Professors, and this kind of false Church is Gods anger kindled against, and God hath been dishonoured by this deceitful kind of Christianity, and the Name of God hath been more dishonoured then by the Heathen who have not professed any part of Christianity at all; yea, what wicked, barbarous inhumanities have been brought forth by this false Church, who got the form at the first and denyed the power; Oh what killing, murdering, blood-shed, persecuting, destroying the Creatures, laying whole Nations desolate, and whole Countries waste, who could not conform to their hypocrisie, and invented injunctions of men; Oh what pride, and arrogancy, covetousnesse, fraud and deceit, cozening and cheating, envying and hating, cursed speaking, filthy communications, oaths and drunkennesse, and riotousnesse, whoredoms and uncleannesse hath been brought forth so abundantly, that the very Heathen are not found in the like practices; and well might they conclude, *if the God of the Christians be such a one as leads his people into such practices, then they would never believe in him, nor worship him in the Christians wayes*, for these practices have hardned their hearts, and made them out of love with the Name of the Living God.

Oh a bed of torment is prepared for this abominable Harlot, who hath denied Christ her Husband, who hath enlightened every man that cometh into the world with a measure of his Light, *John 1.* and the day hastens that her flesh must be burnt with fire, and all her lovers shall hate her, *and the Kings, and Nobles, and mighty men of the earth, which have committed fornication with her shall withdraw their love from her, and assistance from her*, who have given their power to her, and so have made themselves as waters, so that it is just with the Lord God to bring the Heathen and uncircumcised over the Nations again, for they are more justifiable in the sight of God, then these who professe him in words; and yet are reprobate unto every good work.

Therefore come out of Babylon all people and Potentates of the earth, and drink no more of her cup of fornication, and receive no more of her traditions nor inventions for the Ordinances

Ordinances of Christ, and partake no more of the sins of this false Church, which hath drunk the blood of the Prophets, and slew the Saints under the name of Blasphemers, and under the name of Hereticks, as the Jews of old did; who had the words of the Prophets without the life, and were in the error themselves, and in the Blasphemies, who killed the just One, and crucified Christ as a Blasphemer, and the members of his body as Hereticks; *plagues and woes is prepared of the Lord God, and thunders, storms and tempests are to be poured upon the seat of this Whore, and the seat of the Beast, for dreadful is the day of the Lord which is coming upon all flesh, which shall wither as grass, and the Hills shall melt, and the Rocks shall cleave, the high and lofty shall bow, the strong men shall be afraid, terror shall come upon all Hypocrites, and fearfulness and weakness upon all the mighty and valiant, and upon all that have warred and striven with carnal weapons; and all worshippers in the flesh, the sword of the Lord shall come over all which is ready forished, and brandished, which shall be soaked in the blood of Bulls, and the strong, and the fat, and the mighty, and the slain of the Lord shall be many; for the notable day of the Lord God is appearing, such a day as hath not appeared since the Apostacy; for Gods controversie shall be with all the inhabitants of the earth, at the sound thereof the Nations shall be afraid, and the Isles shall shriek, and the mighty men shall fail, for God hath determined to cleanse the Earth of all the fruitlesse trees that cumbereth the ground, and to make his overflowing scourge passe thorough the Nations, to sweep away the refuge of Lyes, Idolatry, and Superstition, Will-worship, vain and humane traditions of men; and to make all flesh to bow before him.*

Therefore all people who look to escape the Judgement of the Lord God which is coming upon the Nations, flee, flee for your lives out of Babylon, out of Sodom and Egypt spiritually so called, hasten and come out to meet the Lord God, least you be overthrown in those cursed Cities, whose sins have reached up to Heaven, make haste and come out, and be not upon your reserves, and consult not with flesh and blood, partake no more of her sins, least you partake of her dreadful plagues, and of the cup of the Lords fiery indignation, which is the portion of all the Inhabitants

tants of that Citie, for they shall drink it.

And all ye Princes and people in *Germany* who are called *Reformed*, who have denied the Church of *Rome* in some things, and who judges you are come to a good degree of Reformation, I must needs say unto you, that the Reformation and your departure from her is yet but weak, poor and feeble, and you are come but a litle way; I may say unto you as the Prophet said, you must *rise and go* from that which you are now in, which you judge to be the worship of the true God, *for it is not your rest*; indeed you have departed and cast off some things which are but circumstances, you stick still in the old ground, and if you take not heed, the leaven of the Whores sorcery which is yet among you, may quickly leaven you all again into *one lump*, and bring you back again within the walls of that *bloudy City*; and you that are Princes will not want temptations to draw you back to associate again with the Church of *Rome*, that now thereby you may be strengthened against the Heathen; for if you should enter into any association with them, or give any consent unto such temptations, you do but go down into *Egypt* for help, then will your later end be worse then your beginning, and your bondage and thralldom will be greater then it was before; and I must tell you plainly, *the Lord will spare the Heathen, and exalt their horn, and they shall be as a scourge, and as the Lords battle-axe, to bring down the pride and haughtinesse of that bloudy City, which hath drunk the blood of the Saints, and they that have yoked others shall now be yoked, and they that have cruelly tyranized over others shall be tyranized over, and that which haibled others into captivity, bondage, and thralldom, shall go into captivity, bondage and thralldom, and the Heathen shall rule over it.*

Therefore ye that are called *Protestant Princes, or Reformed*, and to all people within your Dominions, look not back for help from *spiritual Sodom*; Oh let it never enter into your hearts, you are yet in the Suburbs of that City, therefore come further off, and out from it, for you still retain too much of the Government of that City, and too much of their form, Ordinances, Institution, Doctrine, and judge them to be *Apostolick and Catholick*; But wait you to know the power of

God

God in your Assemblies, which changes the mind and heart *within*, for *bodily exercises profiteth little*, you have had tryal enough of that, but what life and power do you enjoy, which was from the beginning before the world begun? Is there no forcing and compelling amongst you about Religion, and hire for your Ministers? And do not you limit and stop that which the generality cannot agree unto, and brand it for error and Heresie? and is there no killing about Religion, nor making men suffer about matters in Religion? May every one speak freely of the things of God, what he hath received freely of the Lord, as they did in the *Primitive times*, when the Church was in purity? forcing ought not to be amongst you, and you put to great a prize upon out-side things, which at the best are but shadows of Spritual things which are to be revealed *in the heart*; and know you this, that they which worship the Lord aright, worship him *in Spirit and in Truth*, and they who come to witness the new Covenant, cometh to know the Law of the Spirit of God, and the Life revealed in *their hearts*, by which the the Sons of God are led into *all truth*, and they need not go back to the Tables of Stone nor to literal precepts for a rule, for their rule is *within* (to wit) the *Spirit of God*, which the Father hath promised to *power forth upon his Sons and Daughters* by the mouth of his Prophets, and that they need not say, *know the Lord*, for *all shall be taught of him, from the least to the greatest*, who are come to the everlasting Covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling which purifies the heart; and sprinkleth the consciences, *which speaks better things to all them that receive it, then the Blood of Abel*.

There hath been in those parts some stirrings of the Lord amongst you, but the power of God hath been much abused, and great runnings out hath been amongst you, and many have followed their own devilings, and one hating another, and have erred from the spirit, and there hath been factions and great breakings amongst you, and many seeking themselves until darkness have come over again, and so are come to be sealed into a *dead form*, so that little of the presence of God is found in all your Assemblies; Nevertheless though all these things are so, yet the Lords love is reaching towards you

you again, and a visitation and a day there is yet of mercy held forth; *Oh happy and blessed will you be if you do not despise nor reject it* & be not offended in the lowest appearances of Christ to the sons of men, wherein a greater glory is revealing, and shall be revealed, then hath been since the Apostates entered in.

Now the way wherein God doth purpose to make known his mind and his hidden riches, and communicates his Heavenly mysteries will be in a more *hidden secret and Spiritual-invisible manner, then yet ever hath appeared*; For hitherto deceit hath transformed itself, and Satans messengers hath conformed, and Antichrist hath imitated, and the unconverted have been worshipping, observing and practising of outward things without the moving of the Life; So that Antichrist hath gotten into every out-side appearance, and by this means hath sheltered himself with a colour and shadow, and the Devil the enemy of all man-kind hath kept his Kingdom whole by covering himself with the words, shadows and outward performances; and now take but a view over all those Kingdomes that are called *Christendome*, and see how much of the life of Christ is brought forth, and how little of the Image of God is manifested, and the Kingdom of God revealed amongst people which stands in the power and life of righteousness; Therefore the full time of the Lord is come, wherein every word and work shall be tryed, and the secrets of every mans heart shall be made bare, and the root and ground of every action shall be weighed; And *wo will come upon all who are covered with the words and out-side shows and clothed with outward performances, and not with the Spirit of the Lord God.*

Therefore friends and people, high and low, rich and poor, bond and free, of these things we have a blessed cloud of witnesses, whom God hath now raised up in this the day of his mighty power, wherein God hath shined forth in brightness, from his holy habitation are these things seen which hath lightened the Earth, from his dwelling place he hath given forth his word, and great are the Company of them that publish it, and there shall be many more; for a numberless number shall hear it, yea the dead

dead that are yet in the grave shall hear it, and by it shall come to live; and we are a great number who have travelled thorow many dry places and barren wildernesses, who have had the tryal and tast of all outward professions, and visible worshippes, and external performances, and visible ordinances which is contained in hand writings, and we have waded thorow all these things with a great deal of diligence and strickt observency; and we have travelled many years with great pain, that so we might have found rest and refreshment to our souls, that so we might have sitten down in it, and as *seekers* and *travellers* who are weary, were willing to lend an ear unto any who have but said, *come hither and here is rest*; and one have cryed *lo hear*, and another hath cryed *lo there*, and so we wearied our selves at the last, from *Mountain to Hill*, and spent our strength for nought, for none could truly inform us where we should find him whom our souls loved, and whom our hearts panted after, and our bowels yerned.

Until at the last the eyes of many were opened by the Lord, who saw that eternal life was not to be found in any external visible thing, and do know that all they who are exercising themselves after those things, in the exactest and strictest manner, cannot be made *perfect* as pertaining to the *Consciences*; and all these great talkers of the fame of Christ and of his glory and power, miracles and works, and of his death, obedience and sufferings, the bare report and sound of these things doth no good at all, who feels sin hath full power and Dominion in his heart, so that the life of Christ must be felt *within*, injoynd and possessed *within*, and revealed *in the light*, or else he cannot stand justified in the sight of God, nor clear when he judges, neither can he find rest nor peace for his soul; so I am one who have found mercy and favour at the hand of the Lord, amongst many thousands to be a witness of that life which was with the Father before the world began, which is now manifested in thousands of the hearts of his people, destroying the works of the Devil, and bringing in everlasting righteousness.

So the love of God which is shed abroad in my heart through the bowels of compassion which I have unto all man kind,

kind, knowing that all in the first *Adams* state are lost in the fall; I do now give forth these lines, and say unto all, *seek not the Living amongst the dead, not in dead forms, not in dead graves, not in dead worships, neither in dead performances, for the Lord is risen out of all these things, and is set down in glory in a living holy habitation, and now his appearance unto the sons of men is in a more spiritual manner, for I have fully tryed already what are in all these external things, and because I know and have seen his appearance, therefore I speak to the informing of all, how they may come to find him who is the desire of their souls and the Salvation thereof, I say listen and hear, that your souls might live; for Christ is that Eternal, Incorruptable, Pure, Unchangeable, Immortal life, which hath lightned every man that cometh into the World, John the first, yea he that hath enlightened every man with his true light, he is that eternal and immortal life; so that I say unto you all, high and low who desire rest unto your souls, cease from your willing, cease from your running, cease from your own performances, cease from worshipping you know not what, and cease from seeking in that nature which the Lord hides himself from, and come yet to learn of Christ, and sit at his feet, even at the lowest appearance of him, even at the lower end of the Table must you come before you can be exalted, For thou must be contented to sit down there, that which climbeth high and exalts its self, God will bring down, and that which manifesteth sin is *Light*, and that which reproveth evil is the same, and what is reprov'd in the heart of man is manifested by the *Light of Christ*; so keep in all your minds to this, and stop all other motions in your minds, and keep down all thoughts and reasonings in the mind, and so keep to few words and be *slow to speak, and swift to hear*, then will you come to know the heavenly voyce of Christ, the quickning Spirit which devideth asunder, and separateth betwixt the precious and the vile, in thoughts words or deeds, and shews you the ground of each; And as you love this light which Christ Jesus hath enlightened you withal, and bring your deeds to the light which Christ hath placed in your conscience*

sciences which is Gods faithfull witnesse, if unto it you take heed, then you will feel his *power* in you at all times near at hand to help you, and to subiect every vain thought, and every vain desire, and bring them into Captivity; And this is the *word of faith* which is nigh in the heart, which doth discern the thoughts and intents and purposes of the mind before ye act or speak them forth; I say hearken ye unto this, that faith may be begotten in you, and here you will all know your Teacher present and Shepherd, and him that said *come unto me all ye that are weary and heavy laden, who will give rest unto your souls, and learn of Me, for I am meek and lowly of heart* faith Christ; And then you will come to see the differences between the motions of the flesh, and the motions of the Spirit *within*, and come to know each birth, and know what must enter, and what must not enter; And all who follow this *Light* which Christ the *Light* hath enlightned them withall, shall come to know the *Immanuel* and Bishop of their Souls; for he that hates the *Light* which he is enlightned withall, he hates Christ, and he that hates the *Light*, hates that which is the gift of God in *Him*, and he that believes not in the *Light*, is reproved by the *Light*, and judged already in himself by the *Light of the World*, and justification cannot be witnessed where there is reprehention and reproof, by him that is the Justifier.

And whoever receiveth Christ, must receive him as the Father hath tendered him, for he is given for a Covenant of *Light* to the Gentiles, in whom the Gentiles should trust, and to rejoyce at the brightnesse of his Rising, and the *Istes* should be glad, and wait for his coming, a Leader of his people, and Justification is not felt in the heart of any man, but where his leadings is known and obeyed, and none can come out of the Regions and Shadows of death; But as Christ is closed with the *true Light*, who hath enlightned every man that cometh into the *World*, for he is appointed of the Father a Leader out of the *World*, and all that fol-

low the *Light* that they be enlightned withal, deny themselves, for it judges self-love, and self-actions, and self-righteousness, and hear the *Crosse of Christ* you will come to know which slayes the enmity, that which crosseth the carnal corrupt part *in man*, and takes it up and bears it; And herein you will come to know what it is to be crucified to the world, and the lusts and affections thereof, and the World *within*, and the Cross being known and loved which is the *power of God*, the carnal mind, which is death cometh to be slain *within*, and dieth to the fashions of the World, and the goodly noise thereof that passeth away, but that which maketh it passe away endures for ever, the word of the Lord which was in the beginning; so mind that which endures for ever, and take diligent heed, and watch against the carnal mind and Worldly thoughts, and keep them down, and so power you will come to receive *in the Light*, to rule over all that which hath ruled over you; and then you will come to know a transforming of your minds, and that which quickens and enlivens your hearts to God, and Crucifies you to evil; and here is the way in part declared by which all must come to the Father, to the Kingdome, to the Power, and to the *Glory thereof*, which is by Christ the *True Light*, who hath enlightned every man that cometh into the World, who is the way, the Truth it self, the love it self, who is one with the Father.

And here you will come to know the Minister of the *Tabernacle which God hath pitched, and not man*, and his Ministry, and the operation of his Spirit, that which reproves for evil is the *Spirit of God*, wait all that you may receive it, for it is given unto all, but all have not received it, God is kind and bountiful unto all, and herein is every man left without excuse, he that receives it receives power to come out of that which it reproveth for, and thus it is known by its operation, and as any errs from it, and takes not heed unto it, it checks him; but as it is loved

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and closed with, *it gives peace and joy, and brings comfort,* and this is another operation.

And now cease from all Teachers which are only Ministers of the Letter, and Ministers of others words made ready to their hands, for such can never turn any to God, and from all such who preach for hire, gifts and rewards, these are all out of the Doctrine of Christ in *Balaams way*, and the false Prophets way, and not in the Apostle and Ministers of Christs way, who testified *freely* of that which they had received *freely*, and from all such Teachers as taketh *Tythes*, which denies Christ *come in the flesh*, for that Priesthood is changed, and the Law is changed, and the Jewish Priest in the first Covenant which had a Law to take *Tythes* of the people is changed, and a better hope is brought in, and there is not another Law to be given forth, which commandeth such a maintenance for Gospel Ministers, and though such Ministers may tell you of the means of grace, and that you must attend upon their Teachings and discourses, which they call *means*, which are but dead stories, and feeds but the corrupt part in the carnal mind, the Grace is *near you*, even the free grace of God, the saving grace of God that hath appeared *unto all*, and yet all are not saved by it, because they have not received it, nor love it, but all they that love it, are taught to deny all ungodliness, and improving of it is the means to obtain more of it; and whenever you are tempted unto sin, the grace of God which sheweth you the temptations will save you, that you enter not into it, nor defile your consciences thereby, and this grace is Gods free gift unto all mankind, and is *in man*, and is the means whereby he that loves it comes to be saved from the power of the wicked one, that he touch him not.

And all must come into silence, for the Earth must keep silent, and all flesh must be silent before the Lord, be known within, or his voice heard, and so all hasty, heady Teachers and Speakers, which knows not the Lords

voice cannot profit the people at all; and all these tellers of dreams, and dreamers dream *in the night*, but what is the chaffe to the wheat, but he that hath heard God and knows his voice, and his word, which is a Spirit, may speak it freely, and that will answer the just *in all people*, and the witnesse of God will testifie in all Consciences to the Truth thereof, and feels the power of it, and will remember it when the dreamers that dream will be forgotten.

And all ye that are broken into many Opinions, and Sects, and divers Judgements, wait that you may know that which will unite you to God, and one unto another, that you may come all to be of one heart, and of one mind, and of one soul, into the unity of the one Spirit, as the Saints of old were in; and many there are now unto whom the mind of the Lord is known, blessed be the Name of the Lord for ever; and that you may all come to know him that healeth the Nations, and leadeth out of Wars, and maketh them to cease to the end of the Earth, for Wars saith the Apostle *James proceedeth from mens lusts*; and so wait in the Light which Christ hath given you, for power from God to be revealed in you, which killeth the Lusts in your selves, that your Swords may be broken into ploughshares and your spears and weapons of wars into pruning hooks, then the occasion and ground of war is gone, then you will come to be followers of Christ, who came not to destroy mens lives but to save them, and to love Enemies, and blesse them that curse you, and do good to them that hate you, and pray for them that despitefully use and persecute you, and this is the way to conquer the Spirits of your Enemies; Therefore stop not your Eares, nor slight not the day of your visitation, for the joyful sound of the everlasting Gospel is now to be preached again unto all Nations, Kindreds, Tongues, and people, and towards you in Germany as it hath beening wherein remission of sins is obtained, and Life and Immortality is brought to light, and blessed and happy

happy will you be if you be found worthy to receive it, which many Nations and People have put away from them, and thereby have made themselves unworthy of everlasting Life.

And now this is a message of love, and a free gift unto you the Princes, and People, and Rulers in *Germany*, that you may all be warned to be in a readinesse to meet the Lord in his judgements, and also to receive the tender proffers of Life and Salvation to you, and your people; Nation, Rulers and Ruled may be happy, and to come to witnesse blessednesse and peace in all your habitations, which the Lord hath brought many unto in this the day of his mighty power, wherein he hath shewed himself in the Earth, and made many witnesses of his noble acts, and of his wonderous works that he hath done amongst us, to the intent they may be Testimonies thereof, that other Nations may be invited to taste and see how good and gracious the Lord is, who is the Light of his People, and how pleasant the way is that lighteth every man that cometh into the world; and these things I testify unto you who have tasted how good and pleasant his dwelling place is, and how precious the fold of the Lord is, and how green and pleasant are his pastures into which he leadeth his Sheep, unto them hath he given everlasting Life and perfect assurance of his Love for ever.

These sayings are faithful, holy, just, and true, and blessed is he that hath an Ear to hear, and a Heart ready to receive, and understand that which is now declared of, they even they shall be witnesses of this same glory in themselves, and not onely believe because of the sound and report thereof, but see, handle, and understand these things in their own hearts, and
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feel it *in their own breasts*; So this is Gods visitation of Love to you all, Oh prize it, least it passe over your heads, and you never attain unto the comfort of that which belongeth unto your eternal rest and peace.

*From England the 26.
day of the first month
1661.*

From one who loves the Lord, and all the children of the Light, and desires the Salvation and welfare of all men, who is at perfect unity with all the Creation of God.

F.H.

THE END.

